

## Message Text

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17  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

TRSE-00 CU-02 SAJ-01 /062 W  
----- 031645

R 261455Z NOV 76  
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1560  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST 2083  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT CE  
SUBJECT: GOTTFWARD'S BIRTHDAY MARKED

1. MAJOR EVENT IN PRAGUE THIS WEEK WAS CELEBRATION  
OF 80TH BIRTHDAY OF LATE KLEMENT GOTTFWALD, STALINIST  
LEADER OF CPCZ UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1953. CELEBRATION  
WAS APPARENTLY SIMILAR TO THAT OF 75TH BIRTHDAY WITH  
MASS MEETINGS, UNVEILINGS OF STATUES AND OPENING OF  
OF NEW MUSEUM EXHIBITS. STROUGAL AND BILAK WERE THE MAJOR  
SPEAKERS. STROUGAL PERMITTED HIMSELF IN ADDRESS TO  
PARTY LEADERSHIP AT NATIONAL THEATER TO ADMIT THAT  
GOTTFWALD HAD MADE "SOME MISTAKES IN THE LAST YEARS OF  
HIS LIFE," BUT BILAK'S PRAISE AT OPENING OF NEW EX-  
HIBIT WAS UNQUALIFIED. STROUGAL DREW NOTEWORTHY  
ANALOGY BETWEEN GOTTFWALD'S EARLIER STRUGGLES  
AGAINST "OPPORTUNISM AND REVISIONISM" AND THE  
PARTY LEADERSHIP'S POST 1968 INITIATIVES "NOT ONLY  
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TO UNMASK, ISOLATE POLITICALLY, AND CRUSH IDEO-

LOGICALLY THE BEARERS OF RIGHT-WING OPPORTUNIST  
AND ANTISOCIALIST TENDENCIES BUT ALSO TO EXPOSE  
AND LIQUIDATE THE SOURCES THAT HAD OPENED THE WAY FOR  
THESE FORCES." HUSAK, WHO AS VICTIM OF EARLIER  
"MISTAKES" MUST HAVE SOMEWHAT BITTER MEMORIES  
OF GOTTWALD, WAS PRESENT AT NATIONAL THEATER, BUT  
DID NOT SPEAK.

2. ENTERPRISING RUDE PRAVO WRITER FOUND ANNIVERSARY  
GOOD TIME TO RESURRECT AGAIN MARCH 24, 1945 BOMBING  
BY AMERICAN AIRCRAFT OF PRAGUE FACTORY NOW NAMED FOR  
GOTTWALD, AS WELL AS OTHER AMERICAN WARTIME BOMBINGS,'  
WHICH WERE ALLEGEDLY CARRIED OUT IN ORDER TO LEAVE  
POSTWAR CZECHOSLOVAKIA ECONOMICALLY, AND THUS  
POLITICALLY, DEPENDENT ON WESTERN CAPITALISM.  
BYRNE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 NOV 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976PRAGUE03399  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760441-0230  
**From:** PRAGUE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GOTTFWARD'S BIRTHDAY MARKED  
**TAGS:** PINT, CZ, (GOTTWALD, KLEMENT)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006